

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OES-03 FEA-01 INT-05 NEA-09 IO-10

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R 031731Z FEB 75

FM AXEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3738

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

Z/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 2633

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: VELASCO ON US, USSR, PRC, BRAZIL AND CHILE

REF: (A) LIMA 809 (B) LIMA 814 (C) LIMA 849

1. ON JANUARY 29 PRESIDENT VELASCO HELD 4 1/2 HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE MADE SOME RATHER EXTRAORDINARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATEMENTS TO 100 LOCAL AND 50 FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. MOST OF HIS COMMENTS INVOLVING UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN REFTELS. THIS MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS HIS STATEMENTS ON BRAZIL, USSR AND PRC AS WELL AS CERTAIN REMARKS ABOUT THE U.S. AND CHILE. THE BULK OF WHAT VELASCO SAID DID NOT APPEAR IN THE OFFICIALLY EDITED TRANSCRIPT. HOWEVER, USIS OBTAINED A LIVE TAPE ON WHICH THIS MESSAGE IS BASED.

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2. VELASCO WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON U.S. THREAT TO INVADE OIL COUNTRIES IF STRANGLER. HE REPLIED, IT'S THE SAME OLD THING. THAT'S THE WAY THEY ARE, THE WAY THEY WERE BORN. IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, VELASCO SAID THAT PERU IS AWARE OF THREATS AND THEY MIGHT BE NOT ONLY AGAINST ARABS BUT ALSO AGAINST A CLOSER COUNTRY (PRESUMABLY VENEZUELA). BUT IF U.S. ACTED, USSR WOULD TOO. VELASCO FELT THAT THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRY THAT MIGHT INTERVENE IN THE THIRD WORLD'S FAVOR WOULD BE PRC.

3. HE WAS QUESTIONED WHETHER PERU WORRIED ABOUT BRAZILIAN INFILTRATION INTO BORDER REGION. THIS IS AN OLD QUESTION, VELASCO RESPONDED, SAYING THAT HE HAD COMMANDED THE IQUITOS AMAZON JUNGLE AREA IN 1953, WHEN INFILTRATION TOOK PLACE AT RIO BLANCO. DEATHS EVEN OCCURRED AND THESE WERE BLAMED ON BRAZILIANS. AGAIN TODAY THERE IS TALK OF INFILTRATION IN THE PUERTO MALDONADO REGION. IT MAY BE TRUE, PERHAPS NOT. THE POWERFUL INFILTRATE LIKE HUMIDITY, HE NOTED. VELASCO ALLUDED TO BRAZILIAN STUDIES OF THE OIL SITUATION (SUGGESTING BRAZIL MIGHT COVET PERU'S AMAZON OIL). REFERRING TO BRAZIL'S TRANS-AMAZONIC HIGHWAY, WHICH WAS TO REACH THE PACIFIC VIA PERU, VELASCO SAID THAT PERU REFUSED THE LINK-UP. (HE REPORTEDLY MADE A VULGAR GESTURE SIGNIFYING BRAZIL WAS TOLD WHERE IT COULD GO; HIS GESTURE BROUGHT LAUGHTER FROM THE NEWSMEN.) BRAZIL IS A POWERFUL COUNTRY WITH MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FROM THE U.S., HE STATED. NO, I BETTER STOP, VELASCO FINALLY SAID.

4. EARLIER, VELASCO HAD BAITED A SOVIET JOURNALIST CONCERNING USSR-PRC RIVALRIES. LATER, THE SOVIET COMPARED THE PERU-BRAZIL PROBLEM TO PRC-USSR ISSUES. VELASCO THEN ACCUSED THE USSR OF TAKING AWAY PRC LAND ENGENDERING CHINESE HATRED. VELASCO WAS TRIGGERED OFF AGAIN WHEN A SOVIET NEWSMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE PERUVIAN PRESIDENT CONDONED THE VIOLENCE OF A LOCAL LABOR GROUP (THE MLR) WHICH SUPPORTS THE REVOLUTION. VELASCO SHOT BACK THAT THE SOVIETS ARE VIOLENT. NO, WE ARE VERY PEACEFUL NOW, RETORTED THE SOVIET. WATCH OUT, SAID VELASCO, THE CHINESE ARE GOING TO DEVOUR YOU LIKE ANTICUCHOS (SHISH-KABOBS). IN 10 YEARS, CHINA WILL RULE THE WORLD. IT WILL HAVE 1.2 BILLION PEOPLE OR A QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, ALL SOLDIERS. WHO CAN WITHSTAND THEM? THEN THE SKINNY CHINESE WILL LAUGH. THE SOVIET INTERJECTED, YOU MEAN WE HAVE A PROBLEM

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LIKE YOU HAVE WITH BRAZIL. NO, VELASCO OBSERVED, YOUR FRONTIER WITH CHINA IS VERY LONG. TODAY, THE USSR IS HAPPY BECAUSE IT HOLDS A GOOD CHUNK OF CHINESE LANDS. THE UNDAUNTED SOVIET AFFIRMED THAT IT IS EASY TO DETECT CHINESE INFILTRATION. SURE, QUIPPED VELASCO, IT IS EASY TO TELL APART A RUSSIAN FROM CHINESE GIRL (AGAIN LAUGHTER). VELASCO TOLD THE SOVIET: LOOK AT YOURSELF WITH YOUR NICE TIE, PAINTED FINGERNAILS AND FANCY CAMERA. YOU ARE AMERICANIZED. CHINA IS A GROWING SPIRIT.

THEY WILL DEVOUR YOU, LIKE AN ANTICUCHO. (COMMENT: MOST OF PERU'S NATIONALISTIC, ECONOMIC REVANCHISM IS DIRECTED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. AT THE SAME TIME, PERU'S TIES HAVE MULTIPLIED WITH THE USSR. BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, VELASCO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HIS SOCIALISTIC POLICY IS PERU FIRST, WITH LITTLE AFFINITY TOWARD THE USSR. ACCORDING TO NEWSMEN PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE, THE SOVIET JOURNALISTS WERE NOTIFIED.)

5. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION CONCERNING REPORTS PUBLISHED IN CHILE CONCERNING COUP PLOTS AND HIS HEALTH, VELASCO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT CHILEAN PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD VOICED HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH HIS PRESS. THAT WAS A FRIENDLY GESTURE, VELASCO COMMENTED, REGRETTING THAT HE COULD NOT MEET WITH PINOCHET. PHYSICALLY I CANNOT, HE SAID, BUT I WOULD IF I WERE COMPLETE. (VELASCO'S LEG WAS AMPUTATED IN 1973 AND HE STILL SUFFERS PAIN AS A RESULT.)

6. COMMENT: MOST OF VELASCO'S UNGUIDED FOREIGN AFFAIRS MISSILES WERE CENSORED OUT OF THE LOCAL PRESS, AND TO DATE INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES HAVE NOT CARRIED THEM EITHER. THE TAPE DEMONSTRATES HOWEVER THAT PERU IS NOT ABOUT TO COURT ANY FOREIGN POWER, PARTICULARLY THE USSR, REGARDLESS OF THE HELP THE SOVIETS PROFFER.  
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